

08CS5682-1

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a fire resistant polycarbonate sheet, comprising:

compounding an aqueous solution of a flame retardant salt with a polycarbonate composition to form a fire resistant polycarbonate composition, wherein shear is applied during the compounding; and

extruding the fire resistant polycarbonate composition into the fire resistant polycarbonate sheet, wherein a number of surface inclusions in the extruded fire resistant polycarbonate sheet is reduced about 100 percent compared to compounding the flame retardant salt in solid form with the polycarbonate composition.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium or potassium perfluoromethylbutane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoromethane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoroethane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoropropane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorohexane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoroheptane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorooctanesulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorobutane sulfonate; sodium or potassium diphenylsulfon-3-sulphonate; sodium or potassium dichlorobenzoate; sodium or potassium trichlorobenzoate; sodium or potassium tosylsulfphonate; and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing salts.

3. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt is a sodium or potassium diphenylsulfon-3-sulphonate, or a combination comprising at least one of the foregoing salts.

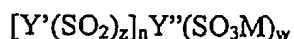
4. (Withdrawn) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt is a sodium or potassium perfluorobutanesulphonate, or a combination comprising at least one of the foregoing salts.

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5. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt is potassium diphenylsulfon-3-sulphonate.

6. (Withdrawn) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt is potassium perfluorobutanesulphonate.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt has a formula:



wherein M is a metal which may be selected from the periodic table of either an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal, Y' and Y'' may be either an aryl radical of 1-2 aromatic rings or an aliphatic radical of 1-6 carbon atoms and may be the same or different, z is an integer between 0 or 1, n is an integer between 0 to 5, and w is an integer less than 6, wherein Y' and Y'' together must contain at least one aromatic ring to which the SO₃M group is attached.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the fire resistant polycarbonate composition comprises about 0.001 to about 2.0 parts per hundred of the flame retardant salt on a weight basis.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the fire resistant polycarbonate composition comprises about 0.01 to about 1.0 parts per hundred of the flame retardant salt on a weight basis.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the fire resistant polycarbonate composition comprises about 0.03 to about 0.3 parts per hundred of the flame retardant salt on a weight basis.

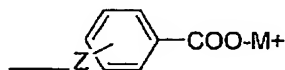
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11. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, further comprising compounding additives selected from the group consisting of a filler, a reinforcing agent, a heat stabilizer, an antioxidant, a light stabilizer, a plasticizer, an antistatic agent, a mold releasing agent, an additional resin, a blowing agent, and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing additives.

12. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt has a melting temperature greater than a compounding temperature for forming the fire resistant polycarbonate composition.

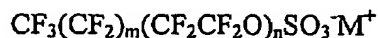
13. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprises water and an alcohol.

14. (Withdrawn) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt has a formula:



wherein M is a metal which may be selected from the periodic table of either an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal, and Z is a halogen.

15. (Withdrawn) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant salt has a formula:



wherein M is a metal which may be selected from the periodic table of either an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal, m is an integer from 1 to 7, and n is an integer from 0 to 7, wherein the order of m and n are interchangeable.

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16. (Previously Presented) A process for reducing haze in a fire resistant polycarbonate sheet, comprising:

compounding an aqueous solution of a flame retardant salt with a polycarbonate composition to form a fire resistant polycarbonate composition, wherein shear is applied during the compounding; and

extruding the fire resistant polycarbonate composition into the fire resistant polycarbonate sheet, wherein a number of surface inclusions in the extruded fire resistant polycarbonate sheet is reduced about 100 percent compared to compounding the flame retardant salt in solid form with the polycarbonate composition, and wherein the haze is reduced compared to compounding the flame retardant salt in solid form with the polycarbonate composition.

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 16, wherein the flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of sodium or potassium perfluoromethylbutane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoromethane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoroethane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoropropane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorohexane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoroheptane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorooctanesulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorobutane sulfonate; sodium or potassium diphenylsulfon-3-sulphonate; sodium or potassium dichlorobenzoate; sodium or potassium trichlorobenzoate; sodium or potassium tosylsulphonate; and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing salts.

18. (Original) The process according to Claim 16, wherein the aqueous solution comprises water and an alcohol.

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19. (Currently Amended) A process for reducing color in a fire resistant polycarbonate sheet, comprising:

compounding an aqueous solution of a flame retardant salt with a polycarbonate composition to form a fire resistant polycarbonate composition, wherein shear is applied during the compounding; and

applying a vacuum to at least one extruder vent port during the compounding; and

extruding the fire resistant polycarbonate composition into the fire resistant polycarbonate sheet, wherein a number of surface inclusions in the extruded fire resistant polycarbonate sheet is reduced about 100 percent compared to compounding the flame retardant salt in solid form with the polycarbonate composition, and wherein a yellowness index is reduced compared to compounding the flame retardant salt in solid form with the polycarbonate composition.

20. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 19, wherein the flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of sodium or potassium perfluoromethylbutane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoromethane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoroethane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoropropane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorohexane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluoroheptane sulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorooctanesulphonate; sodium or potassium perfluorobutane sulfonate; sodium or potassium diphenylsulfon-3-sulphonate; sodium or potassium dichlorobenzoate; sodium or potassium trichlorobenzoate; sodium or potassium tosylsulphonate; and combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing salts.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)